THE

HUNTING HOUR.

A PRESENT FOR HENRY.

NEW HAVEN:
S. Babcock,—Church Street.

1837.

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Prof. Charles Otis
from Estella
Lane

Margaret Bowman
from Jane Hall

THE

MORNING RIDE.

Little Henry Sidney was one pleasant summer morning riding with his father through a large wood. The trees were tall and full of leaves, and there were amongst them a good many of those low thick bushes, which are called brush-wood and thicket.

Papa, said Henry, do you think we shall see any bears or lions, or any elephants or tigers in this wood?

No, indeed, Henry, I am quite sure we shall not.

But do they not hide themselves in woods and forests like this, papa?

Not in this country, nor so near a large city, my son; there are no lions, tigers, or elephants in our country, except in places where they are kept as shows: and there they are shut up in dens and cages made of wood and iron. You have, I think, seen wild beasts?

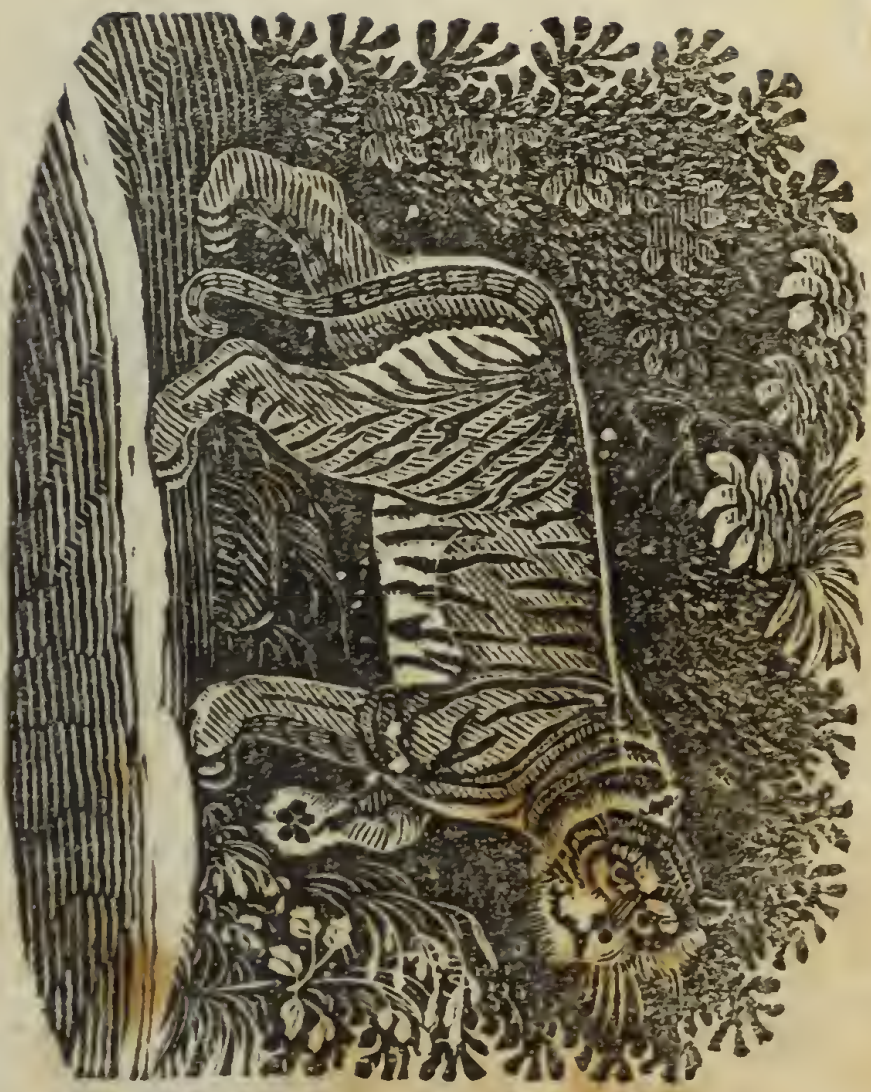
Yes, papa; I saw a great many at the Menagerie; but where did they all come from?

From many parts of the world. Perhaps you do not yet know that there are some

countries where it is always very hot, and others where it is always very cold. Most of the beasts, birds, fish, and insects which are found in hot countries, are never seen in the cold; and those that live in the cold climates are not found in the hot. Lions, tigers, leopards, panthers, monkeys, camels, and zebras, are only found in hot climates; while bears, both black and white, wolves, and rein-deer, belong to the cold climates.

But, papa, the climate here is sometimes very hot and sometimes very cold; have we no wild beasts here?

Our climate is never either as hot or as cold as many of the countries from whence wild beasts are brought. In some of our large forests, far away from here, are found bears and wolves; but here we have no wild beasts; there are animals which live in the fields and the woods, that do not require the care of man; but they are small, and neither strong nor savage. Among these are foxes, rabbits, weasels, squirrels, moles, rats, mice, and many others. The only harm they do us, is to run away wlth our poultry, and game, eat the corn in our stacks and barns, suck eggs, gnaw the young trees, and nibble our



cheese, and whatever else of our food they can get at. But we read and hear of dreadful tales of men, women, and children seized and devoured by lions and tigers, and also of horses and cattle killed by them in the night, in other countries.

But how can these savage beasts be caught and brought here? I should have thought they would never allow themselves to be taken.

They are sometimes caught in traps, where they remain until hunger has somewhat tamed them and made them weak. When they are caught young they may be tamed: You have yourself seen a man enter the

cage of two tigers, have you not?

Oh yes, papa, and he made them come to him and lay their heads in his lap, and obey him in many other things? and when they did not do as he bid them, he beat them with the stick he held in his hand.

And yet those tigers could have torn the man to pieces in a few moments. Men are the only beings in the world that can think and speak! and it is their *reason* that gives them power over all other creatures.

The horse on which you ride, is stronger than you are, yet he submits to work for you, and to serve you. Our reason

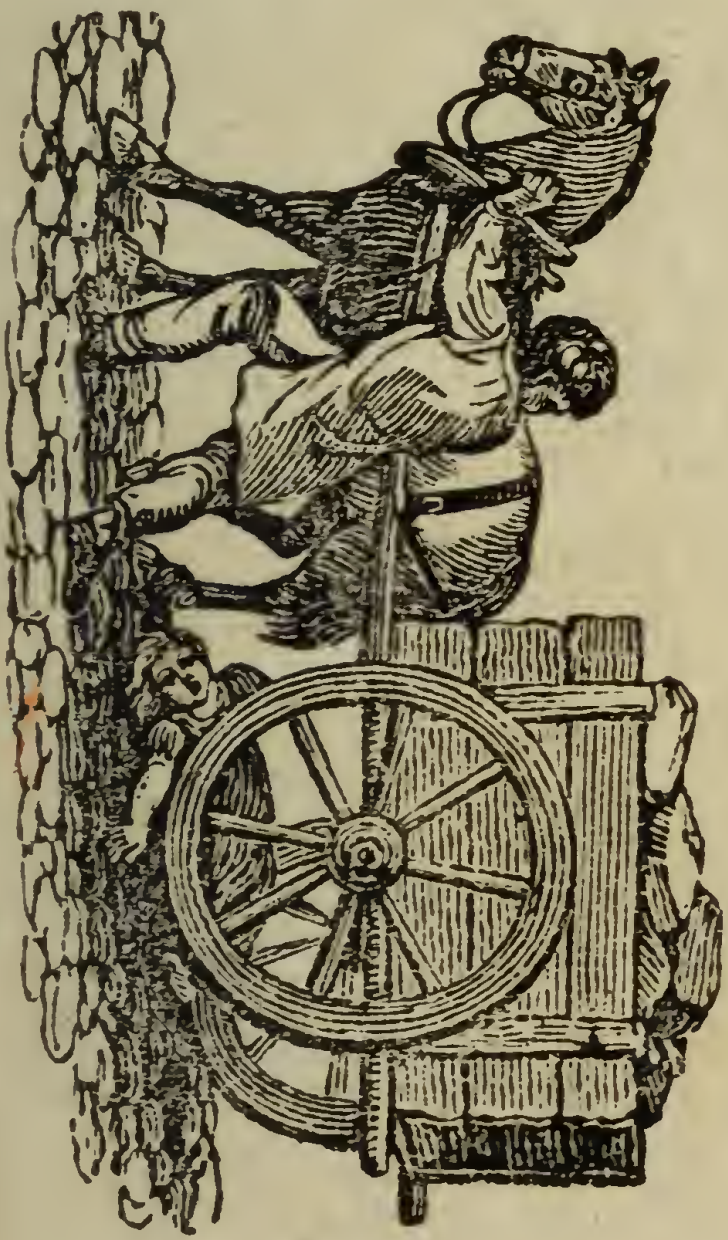
has taught us the means by which we can make horses useful; we know that by putting two or more things together in a certain way, we can make or produce other things. For instance, that if we strike a flint stone and a piece of steel one against the other, we produce a spark, which falling upon rags or dry wood, they take fire; if we heap on more wood we make a cheerful blaze, which warms us. We also know that if we put our hands into fire, it burns us! we therefore take care not to put any thing into the fire which we do not wish to burn. Reason teaches us this and memory keeps it in our

minds. By our speech we inform others of what we have learned; we are also so formed that we are able to make the things which our minds contrive, and this is another cause why we have more power than animals.

Birds have no hands, papa, and yet they can build their nests.

True, Henry, and though men are in every way better than birds and beasts, yet there is much to admire, and much to be learned from them. The study of all the works of God will give you great pleasure, and much knowledge. God has given to every living thing

the power to provide for itself, to build its house, to find its food, to rear its young, and to enjoy its life, whether it dwell on the earth, or under the earth, in the sea, or in the air. God has given to man a mind and reason to direct him, which place him above the beasts. All the works of God display His power and goodness: let it be our part, then, to employ the gift of reason so wisely and so well, that we may become worthy of the blessings and comforts which are spread around us.



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